

Statement re: Jerry Mitchell & Budget – CL Profile

(From LAM instead of RM)

Let's look at the facts: We are in a national recession; every state in the nation is facing tough budgets. Many states are fairing worse than we are. As the nation prepares to go to war, things will get tougher. But, fortunately, during tough times, the Governor has set priorities for the state that will make a difference – more jobs, education for our children, health care and safety. We must prepare our children for the future.

During these tough economic times, the Governor has had to ask state government for two years to hold back 5%. By taking this fiscally conservative approach, he has prevented what has happened in other states – mass reductions of services and mass layoffs, school hours reduced and prisoners being let out of jails. He has cut state spending for three years as well. By placing his priorities in the right areas, he has been able to fund the priorities for the state without having to raise taxes. That's real fiscal responsibility if you ask me.